

Dip 'n Strip
Red Bank, TN

E8117-014-99
127343465

Narrative

On 8/24/99, a call was received from the TOSHA Management in Nashville, concerning an alleged fatality at the above facility. This call was received via telephone message left after work hours CST in the Nashville office on 8/23/99, from a parent of the employee fatality. An inspection was made immediately on receipt of this information on 8/24/99. The management was very cooperative and stated that an employee had passed-out in the workplace on 8/18/99, was taken to Erlanger Medical Center, immediately, had been determined to have died of an aneurysm on 8/19/99, and was buried on 8/21/99. The employee was a white 18-year-old male youth, approximately weighing 150 lbs., and 5 feet, 9 inches tall, that had worked at this establishment, as a part time employee for approximately two years, before becoming a full time employee after graduation from high school this spring. The employee did not smoke, drink alcoholic beverages, use drugs of any type, but was a heavy user of snuff tobacco, presently, the Skoal brand loose dip-type tobacco, reportedly. The employee had begun work around 7:00 am on the morning of 8/18/99, seemed to have behaved normally, and was last seen and communicated with around 11:45 am this same morning, when everyone else went to lunch in the next room, through the closed door nearby. The employee was found, by the owner, at about 12:20 pm, bent over at the waist and down into the cold tank of methylene chloride (MC) wood furniture stripping solution, with one gloved fore arm submerged down into the MC solution that contained approximately, 70% MC, 8% toluene, 21% methanol, and 1% paraffin wax. A new drum of stripper had been added to this tank earlier this same morning and the tank solution was approximately 9" deep, where the tank dimensions were measured to be approximately 84X42X24 inches, and this tank was elevated vertically from the floor level, 9 inches, via 4 concrete blocks and 1 and 1/2 inch thick pieces of wood on the corners. The employee's hair was just touching the solution but his head was not submerged into or touching it, reportedly. His eye sockets were dark/black and his face was gray/white. The owner placed him onto a chair in an upright sitting position, in the same general area, approximately, 12 feet from the tank. The employee was not conscious, could not be revived and later laid horizontally on the floor where the owner and another nearby shop owner administered First Aid and CPR. The emergency medical technicians arrived shortly, thereafter, artificial respiration was begun, he was loaded onto the ambulance, taken to Erlanger North Medical Center, and then air lifted to the Main Erlanger Medical Center. See the attached Erlanger Medical Records. Approximately, one year prior to this occurrence this employee, while working part time during high school, had passed-out during this same work place operation and was taken by this employer to Beacon Health Care Services for treatment. See attached Beacon Health Care Services Medical records. The Red Bank Police did not respond/investigate to the 911 call from the employer, as only the EMT's and ambulance responded. No autopsy was performed after the employee expired, the diagnosis was listed as an "subarachnoid hemorrhage, chemical inhalation injury," and the immediate cause of death being "cerebral edema 2 degree, anoxic injury."